

**What I/we claim is:**

1. A child resistant gas lighter including a lighter body, a lever for controlling  
5 the flow of gas from the lighter, a wheel assembly rotatably mounted on the  
body, and a flint cooperating with the wheel assembly for igniting the gas, the  
wheel assembly comprising a sparkwheel means together with thumbwheel  
means, said thumbwheel means including a digit engaging surface;  
  
10 wherein an impeding element mounted adjacent the thumbwheel means such  
that, as the user contacts the wheel assembly, an engaging surface of the  
impeding element is engaged by the user's digit,  
  
and further wherein the digit engaging surface of the thumbwheel means which  
15 in use is engaged by the user's digit, comprises a low friction surface consisting  
of a plurality of curved surfaces.
2. A lighter according to claim 1, wherein the engaging surface of the impeding  
element is substantially flush with the low friction surface.
- 20 3. A lighter according to claim 1, wherein the roughness of the digit engaging  
surface of the thumbwheel means is Ra 125  $\mu\text{m}$  or less.
4. A lighter according to claim 1, wherein the coefficient of friction of the digit  
25 engaging surface of the thumbwheel means is 0.8 or less.
5. A lighter according to claim 1, wherein curved surfaces have a top radius of  
0.3mm or more.

6. A lighter according to claim 1, wherein in that the curved surfaces are dome-shaped or convexly curved.
- 5 7. A lighter according to claim 1, wherein the thumbwheel means comprises at least one thumbwheel, and the width of the or each thumbwheel is 3mm or less.
8. A lighter according to claim 1, wherein the overall width of the impeding element and the thumbwheel means is less than 15mm.
- 10 9. A lighter according to claim 1, wherein the impeding element is mounted on the lighter body.
- 15 10. A lighter according to claim 1, wherein the impeding element comprises a protective strip.
11. A lighter according to claim 1, wherein the thumbwheel means comprises a pair of thumbwheels and the sparkwheel is mounted therebetween, the protective strip extending between the thumbwheels so as to cover the
- 20 sparkwheel and so prevent access to the sparkwheel by the user's digit.